

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Revolutionary Road is an American romance drama movie. This movie has duration 119 minutes and it was released on 23 January 2009 in USA. The screenplay of this movie is adapted from the novel that has the same title by Richard Yates. This movie is directed by Sam Mendes and Screenplay is written by Justin Haythe. This movie is being launched on DVD and in movie. *Revolutionary Road* has professionals' actor and actress like Leonardo Dicaprio as Frank Wheller and Kate Winslet (April). This movie also has another actor, like Kathy Bates as Hellen Givings, Kathy Hahn as Milly Campell, David Harbour as Shep Cambell, Michael Shannon as Jhon Givings, Richard Easton as Howard givings, Zoe Kazan as Maureen Givbe and the last is Jay O. Sanders as Bart Pollock. The music score is done by Thomas Newman, produced by Dream work picture. In 2 June 2009 DVD of the movie was released. The director of *Revolutionary Road* is Sam Mendes (Samuel Alexander Mendes) who was born on 1 August 1965. He lives in Berkshire (England). He was graduated from University of Cambridge. Then he lives in New York. Sam Mendes career began in 1993, started as a theatre director. Some movies which are directed by Sam Mendes are *American Beauty* in 1999, *Road Perdition* in 2002, *Jarhead* in 2005, Starter for Ten movie in

2006, *The Kite Runner*, in 2007 and the last in 2008 Mendes directed *Revolutionary Road*.

The story of this movie is begun from New York at 1948, on cocktail party, Frank Wheller and April Jonshon met. Then they get married and have two children. The couple get marriage when they are 30th, before they get married, April works as play in the opera. She shows good performance to the audience, but Frank does not like April's job and April's performance, when she stands on the stage. April has dream to be an actress, but Frank prohibits April's want.

Frank does not like April's job and dream. Frank does not like April becoming an actress, he likes April staying at home and taking care of their children. April and Frank have different assumption about April job. April says that, her job is good and she likes it very much, but Frank has assumption that working in entertainment is bad job. April is very upset when Frank says it, because job as marketing in Knox Business Machine is not any longer enjoyed by Frank.

April is unsatisfied in her life. She is bored every day. She stays at home everyday as an house wife and taking care of her children. It is not an interesting activity in daily life. April is bored with her routine, because she also wants to get a career. Her neighbors mention that Frank and April Wheeler are as the model of good couple for the town, but it is wrong. April feels that her life is unhappy. In one night, April gives surprised for her

husband birthday. April and her children sing happy birthday in front of the door.

In next scene, April says to her husband about her planning. April has a plan to move to Paris to get better life and follow her dream. April also says that money is not important. She does not want to be an actress; April can get career as a secretary, because taking a secretary opportunity in Paris is very good. Frank agrees with April want. Her days are full of happiness, because her desire will come true about Paris. April gets their visa and the whole traveling documents. When Frank works in their office, he is called by his boss (Bart Pollock) and gets offering like a promotion to work as the chief executive on a new project (computers). Frank does not take the job yet and does not mention it to April at home either. They are so happy because of feeling starting a new life.

When Frank goes to the restroom to take a rest, while getting a towel, he finds an abortion kit (more like a pump with long tubes) in the self. He is furious and starts to scream at April. She does not mention Frank that she was 10 week pregnant. Before that, April wants to abort her pregnant, because April has opinion, if she has the third baby, Frank does not want move to Paris. Then they argue some more and April understands that Paris is no longer an option. In early morning, Frank is ready to go to work, and he sees a beautiful and rejuvenated April preparing breakfast, asking to Frank politely how he wants his eggs. Frank is caught surprised, but is relieved that the

whole drama is done and they go on to have the best breakfast he has ever had, as Frank puts it. Then, Frank works in his office.

After her husband went to his office, April cries while doing the dishes. She boils a pot of water and lays down some towels on the bathroom floor while she holds the abortion kit in her hand as she closes the door. April gently walks down the stair to the living room and looks out the window, as she gets bleeding all over carpet and her skirts while she calls the ambulance. When arriving to the hospital, April is dead, because she blends too much. In the end of scene, Frank is very upset, then he and his children's move to town and leave Connecticut.

There are many responses, some positive and among other negative to this movie. The positive responses come from Richard Roeper : 2010, Robber Rotten : 2009, Dave Call Houn 2010. Some negative responses are by Sonny Bunch: 2010, Bryan Helder : 2010, Tom Long : 2010. Robber Roten said the result of all this combined talent is a masterpiece of a film that reveals the hidden disease at the heart of American life in the 1950's. Dave Call Houn also comments that this is also being, well observed film that doesn't fully hit the mark but sets up enough pleasing idea to chew on regarding ambition, marriage and ideals of how to live one's life, individually and as a couple. (The Internet Movie Data Base, 2009).

Among other negative responses are from Sonny Bunch on Washington Times, Bryan Helder from Sydney, Tom Long from Australia. First, Sonny Bunch, said that the characters in this film are weak. He just

couldn't muster much sympathy for the characters that couldn't burst out of the cages of their own design. Second Bryan Helder said it is boring movie. This story is familiar to a lot of people because it is about a couple. It's not really that interesting, especially two hours of it. The last, Tom Long says the movie is bitter, nerve wracking, ugly and relentless.

Revolutionary Road is big drama done right, a mesmerizing look at desperate lives, wrong movie and spoiled dreams that hits hard right from the beginning and never let's up. The movie was distributed by Paramount Vantage movie in 2009, and had rank move genre MPA. Total sales in the book office are \$22,877,808. Theatrical perform are total US gross \$22,911,480, international gross \$54,078,191, and world wide gross \$76,989,671. They are many 322,660, DVD unit sold 435,996.

There are many awards got from *Revolutionary Road*, the movie wins on the Golden Globe Award, Kate Winslet became only the second actress to win for best lead actress in a drama. Michael Sahonnon was nominated for the academic award for best supporting actor for his role as John Giving. In Golden Globe Award, Leonardo DiCaprio was just nominated as the best actor and in the best director, Sam Mendes was just nominated also.

There are four reasons that make the movie be attracting to be studied and analysed. First reason is because the movie is a literature that is enjoyable to be researched. It shows the reality of life, so that watching the movie will give a more lesson that represents life. Most of the inspiration will be gotten from watching movie.

The second reason is the good character. The movie shows the ambiguity of the mayor character. Kate Winslet as April Wheller, she is professional actress that has good talent in her life. She can play the role very well as frustrated and depressed women.

Third, is setting. The writer has interest to the places or location of *Revolutionary Road* in suburban Connecticut in 1950's. It describes old time and represents all of events on the year where the truly events happened. It brings the viewers go back to the old time, that is a year 1950. So it can represent everything in the old time.

Fourth, the plot and theme of the movie, such as April wants to work an entertainment, but her husband disturbs her desire, because Frank does not like if April works in entertainment or as an actress. Frank prefers April to stay at home and taking care her children. Frank thinks that career is not important for woman life, and they always argue each another every day. The theme of this movie is women have much secret in their life, women use feeling in her life, because women always precede feeling than their thought . Based on the reason above, the researcher is interested in analyzing woman right for pursuing the career. Specifically this study will be analyzed by using feminist theory. Furthermore the researcher entitles this research. **WOMEN'S RIGHT FOR RECOGNITION AND PURSUING CAREER IN SAM MENDES' *REVOLUTIONARY ROAD* (2009) : FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE.**

B. Literature Review

The study on *Revolutionary Road* by Sam Mendes has not already conducted at least in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. It is the first study on this movie in Surakarta. The present study focuses on the Women's Right For Choice Of Career In Sam Mendes' *Revolutionary Road* : Feminist Perspective.

C. Problem Statement

The problem of the study is “ How can women's right for recognition and pursuing career is reflected in Sam Mendes *Revolutionary Road*.”

D. Limitation of the Study

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing right recognition and career in *Revolutionary Road* movie based on Nancy Mandell's, Margaret L. Andersen theory of feminist.

E. Objective of the Study

The objective of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the film based on its structural elements.
2. To analyze the film based on feminist perspective.

F. Benefits of the Study

1. Theoretical Benefit

Theoretically the result of the study contributes to the large body knowledge particularly literary study.

2. Practical Benefit

Practically, the study can add the knowledge to the researcher of the right perspective theory applied in a literary work, particularly on need for positive regard to be fully function person in Sam Mendes *Revolutionary Road*.

G. Research Method

To analyze the data found in this movie, the writer uses the qualitative method in this study.

1. Type of the Study

This research paper uses qualitative research in the form of literary work. Qualitative research is a type of research that does not use any calculation or statistic procedure. Here, the writer does not include statistic procedure.

2. Type of the Data and Data Sources

Data in this research is text, image consisting of words, phrases, and sentences. Data sources in this research are:

- a) The primary data source of this paper is *Revolutionary Road* the movie writer by Sam Mendes.
- b) The secondary data sources are taken from others, which relate to the Primary data, such as the biography of the author in *Revolutionary Road*, and the other resources that support the analysis of the movie.

3. Technique of the Data Collection

The technique used for collecting data is note taking and image capturing. The steps are as follows:

- a) Watching the movie repeatedly
- b) Finding the important data
- c) Arranging the data into several parts based on its classification developing of data provided.
- d) Making notes of the parts relevant to the analysis.

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

The writer will use two techniques in analyzing the data:

- 1. Analyzing the structural element of the movie.
- 2. Analyzing the Women's Right For Choice Of Career the main character using descriptive analyzing based on underlying theories.

H. Research Paper Organization

To give clear understanding of the contents of this study, the writer has appointed the presentation of the study. The presentation of this study consists of six chapters. Chapter I deals with introduction covering the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, research limitation, research objective, research significance, research methodology, and thesis organization. Chapter II deals with underlying theory containing the description of the theory of feminism. Chapter III deals with social

background of American society in the late of twentieth century. Chapter IV deals with structural analysis containing the structural elements of the novel and discussion. Chapter V presents feminist analysis. Chapter VI is conclusion and suggestion.